

**W6OTX**

**PAARA NEWSLETTER**  
VOLUME 54, NUMBER 10, October 2005

**K6OTA**

**K6YQT**

# PAARAGraphs



Celebrating 68 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*  
The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



## CALENDAR



October.... 7 PAARA Meeting

7:00-9:30

Menlo Park Rec Center  
700 Alma Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

October.... 12 PAARA Board Meeting 7:00pm  
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Lane Palo Alto  
(due to Parking Lot problems location may change, check net before Bd. meeting)

October 23 PAARA Fest, 11-4

November 4 PAARA Meeting, 7:00pm

November 9 PAARA Board Meeting, 7:00pm



## NEXT MEETING

October 7, 2005

### Speaker:

Kristen A McIntyre, K6WX

### Program:

“Software Defined Radio”

PAARA member and ARRL East Bay section Technical Coordinator Kristen A McIntyre, K6WX will provide us with an overview of what SDR--Software Defined Radio--is and what its impact will be on the Ham community.

**Reminder: Meetings now start at 7:00pm!**

~Peter K6WEB

## Lightning Detection Map

~de Vic Black AB6SO

The San Francisco peninsula has the lowest incidence of lightning activity in the US. Even the East Bay has more with increasing amounts over the Santa Cruz Mountains and frequent strikes in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Lightning can severely damage computers and radio equipment and cause radio static on the lower HF bands. To find where the lightning strikes are located, go to:

<https://thunderstorm.vaisala.com/tux/jsp/explorer/explorer.jsp>

Vaisala Lightning Explorer displays recent lightning activity across the continental US. Lightning data is displayed with a 30 minute delay so fresh data is available every 30 minutes. Get the latest map available by clicking the “Refresh” next to the map. The map displays a 2-hour time period. Lightning data is color coded in 20-minute increments.



WAIT---I CAN SEE THE OL' BOY THROUGH THE WINDOW---HE'S GOING TO DISCONNECT HIS ANTENNA---HIS HAND IS NEAR THE CO-AX CONNECTOR---NOW! THROW THAT SUCKER NOW!

## Miscellaneous Info

**VE Exams**, 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23—PL=100Hz  
 Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room  
 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA  
 contact: <http://amateur-radio.org/> or Al. WB6IMX@att.net

### ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O.  
 (Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations)  
 Second Saturday of month, March–October, 6am–2pm  
 Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761  
 Contact: <http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/>

**LIVERMORE SWAP MEET.** Now in Robertson Park, Livermore, every first Sunday of the month. 7 am to 11:30 am. Free admission for buyers. For further info, see: [www.larkswap.com](http://www.larkswap.com) or contact Ian Parker, W6TCP at [swapmeet@livermoreark.org](mailto:swapmeet@livermoreark.org)

**PAARA** Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association  
 meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 7:30pm each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,  
 contact: <http://PAARA.org/> or Terry Finn, AA6T, 650-366-9111

**FARS** Foothills Amateur Radio Society  
 meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 7:30pm each month  
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6va.org/>

**NCDXC** Northern California DX Club  
 meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 7:30pm each month.  
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM  
 contact: <http://ncdxc.org/> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

**NorCalQRP** Northern California QRP Club  
 meets 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month  
 contact: <http://www.norcalgrp.org/>

**SPECS** Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System  
 meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz  
 contact: <http://specsnet.org/> or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

**SCARES** South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
 meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:30pm each month, San Carlos City Hall.  
 Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.  
 contact: President Phil Stripling, KG6ILU, 650-342-6648, <http://k6mpn.org/>

**SCCARA** Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association  
 Operates W6UO & W6UO/R, repeater 146.985-pl  
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.  
 meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month at 7:30 PM.  
 contact: <http://www.qsl.net/scarra/> or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334  
 ARRL/VFC license testing contact 408-507-4698

**SVECS** Silicon Valley Emergency Communications  
 Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)  
 contact: <http://www.svecs.net/> or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

**WVARA** West Valley Amateur Radio Association  
 W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.  
 VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctess      UHF:  
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctess      441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctess  
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctess      1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctess  
 meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed every month.  
 contact: <http://wvara.org/>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or N6FFC@ARRL.NET

### DISASTER SERVICES

#### American Red Cross, PALO ALTO AREA CHAPTER

400 Mitchell Lane  
 Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. each month 7:30PM  
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite.  
 contact: <http://paarc.org/> or Mac Millian 650-688-0423. MACM@puarc.org  
**American Red Cross, SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER**  
 contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org/> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924  
 shensley@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor: [k6uro@arrl.net](mailto:k6uro@arrl.net))

**PAARAGraphs E-mail address:** [k6uro@arrl.net](mailto:k6uro@arrl.net)  
**Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th**

**Text:** WORD, MS Publisher, RTF, or ASCII  
**Photos:** JPEG or TIFF raster images  
**Diagrams and ads:** AI, EMF, or EPS vector files  
**PAARA Web/WAP site:** [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

### Officers

President .....	Terry Finn, AA6T	650-366-9111
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Past President.....	Andreas Junge, N6NU	650-233-0843
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Director ('06).....	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX	
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See the calendar for Board meeting times. **Visitors are welcome.**

### Appointed Positions

Membership .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
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Station Trustee W6OTX & K6YQT	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6OTA..	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager .....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Badge Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wcvu.com	
Raffle Coordinator.....	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Ticket Master .....	Kyle Rice, KG6MSK	
Field Day Coordinator ....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
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## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

**Ron Panton, W6VG July 2003**

**Joe Gomes, KB6HDC May 2004**

## Connections and Interconnections; From Lenin to Amateur Radio ~by Vic Black, AB6SO

As a result of the war on terrorism, the FBI is reputed to have said that they can select any two individuals at random in the US and, through mutual acquaintances, link them up in less than seven steps. Assuming this to be the case, we'll attempt to link the Russian socialist revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin to the Beach Boys rock and roll group and then to Amateur Radio.

The story begins in Russia in 1896 with the birth of Lev Sergeivich Termen.

Termen, an electronics technician, was tapped during the Second World War to work on top secret electronic encryption and decryption devices for the Russian military. Even though the devices are woefully outdated now, they are still classified top secret by the Russians. Termen liked to experiment with audio equipment during his personal time. His secret dream was to create the first electronic musical instrument.

The device he finally settled on was a large wooden box containing two vacuum tube HF oscillators. The outputs of the oscillators were input to a mixer and the difference output was a wailing sound at audio frequencies.

The box had two short antennas mounted on it. One was on top of the box and the other came out the side of the instrument. To play the instrument, a musician waved his or her hands near the antennas to modify their oscillation frequencies by hand capacitance. This created an eerie sound effect somewhat like a cross between an electronic cello and a musical saw (yep, it's an actual wood cutting saw vibrated with a violin bow).

Some classical style music was written in Europe for the Theremin, as the instrument became known, but it didn't catch on much in the US. During a work related debriefing before Lenin, Termen demonstrated the new instrument. Lenin, a musician himself, became fairly adept at playing the difficult instrument. Its first real use in the US was for sound tracks in science fiction movies during the 1950s. It was always scary to hear the eerie other-world sounds emanating from flying saucers as they invaded Earth as the stiff-legged robotic space creatures emerged from the space crafts apparently intent on destroying all Earthly life forms.

During the late '50s and early '60s, a young US musician, Brian Wilson, discovered that a neighbor had a Theremin. He borrowed it and mastered the difficult instrument. His band, the Beach Boys, used the instrument to create their blockbuster surfing classic "Good Vibrations". Rock and Roll has never been the same since then.

Soon several US companies were making Theremins for use by professional musicians. Some instruments, such as those made by RCA, are collectibles today. One manufacturer, Robert Moog, made the Moog Synthesizer that became a music industry standard. His earliest synthesizer had an arcane model number on the front panel. Or at least

that's what most people thought it was. It said simply K2AMH, Dr. Moog's callsign at the time.

Other Amateur Radio operators also became highly involved in the music industry. One notable is sound equalizer expert Bob Heil, K9EID, whose microphones and earphones are considered some of the best ever made for Amateur Radio. Heil's Amateur Radio company is now celebrating more than twenty years of involvement with Amateur Radio. He started supporting the live music industry in 1967 with clients such as Peter Frampton, The Who, The Grateful Dead and Joe Walsh. Many of Heil's musical innovations are still in use today and include electronic crossovers and the guitar Talk Box.

Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, became lead guitarist for the group The Eagles. If you don't recognize the name The Eagles, you have probably heard many of their songs including the hit song Hotel California. If you have really been paying attention, you'll also know that Walsh ran for US President in 1980 and Vice President in 1992.

Many musicians compose and perform music only on synthesizers now. One of my favorites, when I want to relax, is Kitaro.

Termen lived a very long life, much of it in obscurity in New York City. His last public Theremin performance was at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stanford University in 1991 where, at age 95, he played the song "Midnight in Moscow". He died in Moscow at the age of 97 years in November, 1993, but his legacy will live on in both music and Amateur Radio.

## Crystal Radio Links...

So you've built the Oatmeal Box Radio on this site, and you want to improve the design? Go to Owen Pool's site, Crystal Radio Resources for his Peanut Specials. Owen's site also has an extensive list of crystal radio links, tips on things such as bandsplitting and DX, and plans for building a convertible crystal radio (you can swap in a simple "triode" detector/amplifier), an RF signal booster, and more. Owen is a Society member, and he's one of the resident experts lurking around on Rap 'n Tap, so be sure to give him a warm hello!

SkyWaves. This is Al Klase's site (he's a member too), and he has posted several pages of interest to the crystal radio enthusiast. You'll find "Crystal Set Design" 102, a crystal set tutorial, and some nice tips for mounting crystals to use in detectors. You'll also find photographs of some of Al's radio reproductions, some communication receivers and gear (the Russian maritime radio receiver is a must-see), and information on designing a SWL antenna distribution system for connecting multiple LF/MF/HF receivers to a single antenna.

There is a new forum on Yahoo! that is devoted to crystal radio. It's called The Crystal Set Radio Club, and its members are true radio enthusiasts (some of them are members of the Xtal Set Society too). Check it out!

The American Radio Relay League Pacific Division & the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Presents:

# PACIFICON 2005

## Amateur Radio Convention

October 14-16, 2005, San Ramon Marriott Hotel  
San Ramon, California

For Convention Tickets, More Information & Event Schedules go to:

**www.PACIFICON.org**

PACIFICON 2005 Events Include:

- \*Friday All-Day Antenna Seminar \*Friday Evening DXpedition Presentation
- \*Saturday Keynote Breakfast & Evening Banquet \*Outstanding Technical Forums
- \*Ham Equipment Exhibitors \*Great Swap Meet \*Daily Radio Prize Drawings
- \*ARRL Forum \*Transmitter Hunt \*VE Exams \*Saturday All-Day Technician License Class
- \*QRP Forum \*Legal Seminar
- \*Boy Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air

### Hotel Reservations:

**PACIFICON** returns to the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California, October 14-16, 2005. The luxurious Marriott Hotel offers great amenities for large events and spacious and comfortable accommodations for guests. The site is about 30 miles east of San Francisco. Our accommodations include a Grand Ballroom and multiple conference rooms, Fitness Center, beautiful outdoor pool, business center with copying machines, internet access & printer hookups, excellent in-hotel restaurant & comfortable lounge areas, nearby tennis and golf facilities. Surroundings include San Francisco, Napa Valley wineries, Marin World Africa USA, San Francisco Giants & Oakland A's baseball, and the beautiful nearby 3,900 foot high Mount Diablo mountain.

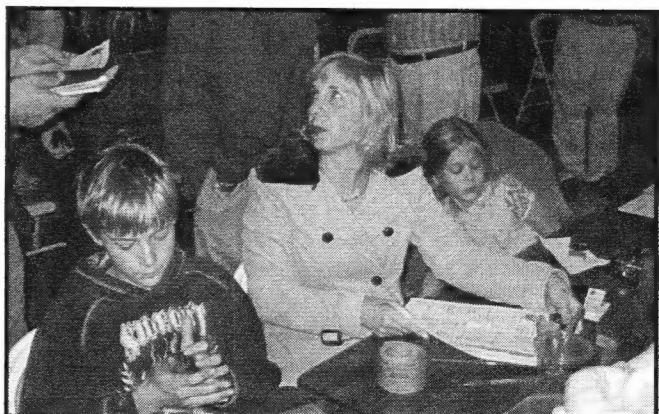
The Marriott is offering convention attendees a special **PACIFICON 2005** room rate of only **\$84 for each night** (single/double) if reservations are made before October 1, 2005. There is a limited block of rooms at this rate, so make your reservations early! To make hotel reservations call 1-800-228-9290. Be sure to ask for the **PACIFICON 2005** rate.

**PACIFICON 2005** Contact information: [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org), P.O. Box 272613, Concord, CA 94527, [pacificoninfo@astound.net](mailto:pacificoninfo@astound.net), 925-288-1730

**San Ramon Marriott Hotel Reservations:** 1-800-228-9290 (ask for **Pacifcon 2005** room rate)

**Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club** information: [www.mdarc.org](http://www.mdarc.org)

**ARRL** information: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)





## Time Travel

### with PAARA's Expeditionary Force

by Vic Black AB6SO

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association's (W6OTX) Expeditionary Force is an informal Special Interest Group (SIG) dedicated to special events and LXpeditions (local expeditions). Goals are to introduce Technician class operators and others to Field Day-style HF activities and to promote portable radio operations including

- Island Hopping
- Mountain Topping
- HF and VHF Contests
- QRP (Low Power) Contests
- Light House and Light Ship activations

--County and Maidenhead Field Grid activations and other portable, mobile and pedestrian HF, VHF and satellite operations as well as emergency preparedness exercises.

Emphasis is on quick and easy set up and operation from remote locations for fun, adventure and developing skills and equipment. We experiment with antennas, field power generation and radio optimization for all mode portable communications. As Ade Weiss W0RSF, author of "The Joy of QRP" said, "If you can access a remote area, you are obligated to operate from there". Of course he insisted that operations should be fun rather than work. If you're not having fun, you're not doing it right.

On August 21, 2005 Mark Cohen K6EF, Mike Furman N6IL, Vic Black AB6SO and Andreas Junge N6NU, along with Sandra Dominguez N6NU-XYL, converged on East Brother Island and Light Station for the International Lighthouse Special Event Day for our first group field adventure. A British publishing company photography crew accompanied us on our island assault. Their old photos date back to the establishment of the lighthouse in 1873. They photographed the island as it looks today from the exact camera positions used to make the original photos. Their photo book will be called "Then and Now". Instead of ladies with hoop skirts and gentlemen with top hats, or with long fishermen's oil skin slickers, the "Now" photos feature radio hams enjoying Amateur Radio on the island. We were isolated from the hustle and bustle of the Bay Area in an undeveloped area of Richmond Point. When I last visited on a bicycle during the 1960's there was an active whaling station located there. We were heading back in time already!

The three quarter acre island, located in the 2-mile wide straits separating San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, is just downstream from the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Deltas. The active light station, owned and operated by the US Coast Guard, is an aid to bay and river navigation.

Ocean going cargo ships pass on their way to inland deep water Ports of Stockton and Sacramento as well as to the former US Naval Station Mare Island.

The light and horns do not warn ships away from the island, but facilitate bay navigation by triangulation. Keepers activate signals whenever fog obscures nearby Red Rock to the south, Point San Quentin to the west, or The Sisters to the North West.

We made a bold full frontal assault on the island in an open boat seating 10 people. On arrival during low tide we climbed straight up a steel ladder about 15 feet to access the island. Our boat was hoisted by crane to a dock to allow safe unloading of our gear. Captain Lucien explained that the current is very swift when the

tide turns and begins to flood. During those times he has had to run his twin 150 horsepower marine engines at full throttle and still not make headway against the tidal bore. Waves break over the island during storm surges. Early light keepers accessed East Brother by rowboat. The island work crew was very much interested in what we were doing and asked as many questions about becoming licensed radio operators as we had questions about the island. The crew has to be self sufficient as they become isolated during storms.

Although the island appears as it did during the nineteenth century, there are many up-to-date high tech improvements. Rain water is collected from roofs and is stored in an underground cistern surrounded by a large rain catchment basin covering most of the island. The last time I saw one of those was thirty years ago at Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico or "Sky City" located atop a desert mesa and considered the oldest continuously inhabited North American city. My family used a similar cistern to store water from our slate roofed house to backup our artesian well nearly 60 years ago. Walter Fanning, a former lighthouse keeper on the island, is the grandson of one of the first keepers of the light. He recalls living on the island as a child to avoid the 1918 flu pandemic. He strapped on roller skates and a naval cape to catch the wind to "sail" around the rain catchment basin. Now in his late '90's he still occasionally volunteers at the island. Stored water is pumped through filters and into a water tower for domestic use and fire suppression. Photovoltaic panels top off water pump batteries. Passive solar panels heat water for use inside the buildings. The station has its own wastewater treatment plant so only clean water is discharged into the bay.

We were treated to a private demo of the awesome power of the horns. Original sound signals were steam whistles. The signal building houses a gasoline engine used to start a large fixed diesel marine engine that drives a compressor. That charges two air tanks about 3 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. They, in turn, drive two horns atop the building. The horns were originally designed for use in a pipe organ, but the first time they sounded they blew out the church windows making believers of the congregation. The diaphone fog horn can be heard up to 20 miles. During foggy weather the horns sound every 20 seconds, 24 hours a day. In order to protect inhabitants, the lighthouse was built using double brick walls filled with sound absorbing rammed sand. Wood exterior trim was then applied. In addition to the horns, there is a large fog bell. Formerly light keepers manually rang the bell using a sledge hammer. Now it is automated with an electrically operated clapper.

The station boasts a three-story square tower attached to a two-story Victorian house with three rooms per floor. Besides the lighthouse, water tank, and signal building, there is a small light keeper's residence for Captain Lucien and wife Isabella, the domed cistern, a carpenter shop, and storage shed. East Brother is expensive to maintain with annual costs well over \$100,000. Boat maintenance and fuel add another \$40,000 annually.

The original light used a fourth-order Fresnel lens, like one displayed in the horn building. A kerosene flame was sufficient to be seen up to 12 miles with the equivalent of only a 50 watt incandescent lamp. The lenses were broken during the 1906 earthquake. The replacement leaded glass prism lens has been appraised at \$2 million. It concentrates light on the horizon much as a collinear antenna does for VHF radio signals. That lens was later replaced by a fifth-order lens powered by a 500 watt lamp. The light in the 3-story tower was fitted with an automated electronic strobe in 1969. It operates 24 hours a day at a focal plane height of 61 feet.

Nearby islands have not been activated yet for the US Islands program.

(Continued on page 108) Time Travel

(Continued from page 107) Time Travel

#### West

Brother Island, populated by cormorants, is a couple hundred yards away. A few miles away are the two Sisters and the two Marin Islands, owned by the Crowley Marine family (tug boats and river & bay pilots), with a couple of homes on them.

Red Rock Island, about a quarter of a mile south of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, looks like a big red loaf of bread. During square rigger days, whaling ships quarried ballast rock from the island. Ships that survived the trip around Cape Horn (fifty % of them sank) then dumped the ballast in Europe where it was recycled as paint pigment. There are still European buildings painted red with crushed rock from the island. The coloration results from heavy metals formerly mined on the island. Abandoned mining tunnels are hazardous because you can enter at low tide, become trapped and drown when the tunnels quickly fill with the advancing high tide.

Red Rock Island is for sale and would make a fine radio Field Day site except for the cost. When I first discovered it was for sale the price was reputedly over \$100 million. The realtor expected to make a sales commission wind fall.

The price dropped and dropped again until now it is about \$2.5 million. The big problem is that there are no facilities on the barren island. A buyer would face a nightmare getting required development permits approved. It is located in three jurisdictions. Marin, Contra Costa and San Francisco Counties converge on the island. Nearby waters are hazardous. Even the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge with a vertical clearance of 185 feet has been rammed several times. Once it was struck twice in one day: once by a World War II warship on its way to the mothball fleet and again by a Navy radar vessel.

Our only casualty was Mike's hat, which disappeared into the shark infested waters when the captain gunned the twin boat engines on the trip to the island. Mike was concerned about sunburn without his hat, but fortunately there was no fog. With fog horns turned off he set up his ICOM 706 MkII 20 meter PSK31 digital station inside the signal building out of the sun. He made keyboard-to-keyboard contacts by Amateur Radio similar to Internet e-mail.

Mark operated 20 meters SSB with an ICOM 706 MkII and BuddiPole. Andreas and Vic worked 2 and 6 meters FM and SSB, as well as 20 meters Morse code QRP, using the popular YAESU FT-817 and wire dipole antennas. There were several HF contests active, but radio propagation conditions are dismal at this low point in the 11-year solar cycle. Part way through our 6 hours of operation there was a radio blackout caused by a solar coronal mass ejection. All bands were "dead" for awhile. Both 10 and 15 meter bands were useless all day. Even so, we dispensed contest points and provided reports for International Light House Special Event Day (USA light #258), Grid Field CM, Contra Costa County for county hunters and East Brother Island (CA-069S) for the US Islands Awards Program. Would we go back again? You betcha!



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

~Rev. Rick Line KG6TMD

. A while back my wife, Connie, found a "wild" feral kitten in a strange situation. We had a small decorative birdhouse on the patio. The kitten found it and being curious wanted to get a closer look. She stuck her head inside for a peak. As you can imagine, not everything that goes in easily comes out that way. She tried everything but couldn't get free. Her struggles and cries for help were seen and heard. Connie brought the birdhouse, kitten attached, to me for assistance. What a sight! Here was a kitten that had never before been touched by a human hand, yet she was totally yielded to the one that was now helping her. We disassembled the birdhouse and eventually managed to extract a weary and battle worn feline. She had not scratched, bitten or even squirmed during the ordeal. She must have realized her helpless and hopeless situation without our intervention. But, as soon as she was released she ran and hid from her rescuers. She wanted nothing to do with the very ones who came to her aid.

It seems to me that we are often like that kitten when it comes to our relationship with God. We get along fine without God's direct intervention in our lives and try to keep our distance. Then, when we face a situation that is truly beyond us we struggle and cry out for help. Problem is, often after receiving the help, we again run away and rob ourselves of the benefits of a caring, loving and nurturing relationship with our God.

How about you? Are you running from God, or are you enjoying the benefits of a rich relationship with Him today? You might begin with a little DX session with Him tonight.

Blessings,

Rev. Rick, KG6TMD

### Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

at Su Hong Restaurant  
1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Food will be served at 5:30 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.



**Silent Key**  
**Robert (Bob) Bisio AE6BN**  
**September 5, 2005**

## FIRST CONTACT



*photo KM6EP*

The photograph, First Contact, is from a scene in the up-coming video, "Adventures at Field Day", produced by **Dick Kors, KM6EP**, which depicts the activities of PAARA members during this year's Field Day effort. Produced in co-operation with the Viewfinders video club, the 22 minute video used six different cameras and three different kinds of video in production and was edited from over ten hours of original tape. It will be shown at an up-coming PAARA event..

*~Dick Kors KM6EP*

## K6FS GEAR FOR SALE

**KENWOOD TS450** HF xcvr s/n 60700070 with: Antenna Tuner (AT450) installed after-market (makes it TS450SAT)  
Temperature-compensated oscillator (SO-2)  
Tone unit (TU-8), IRC: Xtal filters: 88H2.1C, 455H2.1 (SSB),  
455H400A (CW), PROC-450 RF speech processor, MONI-450 transmit  
speech monitor. NEW BATTERY INSTALLED BY KENWOOD  
12/11/04 MANUALS/INSTRUCTION SHEETS FOR ALL  
ABOVE.....Best offer over \$650

**AMERITRON AL-811** 500-watt HF amplifier, 160-10 meters incl.  
WARC, 3 matched Svetlana 811A tubes, with manual and spare set of 3  
matched Svetlana 811A tubes...Best offer over \$300

**AEA AT-300** HF antenna tuner, 400-watt p.e.p.  
with manuals.....\$150

**KENWOOD TR-751A** 10-watt all-mode 2-m transceiver s/n 7080243  
SW-50 swr/power meter and SWT-1 antenna tuner  
INSTRUCTION SHEETS, MANUALS  
AND SERVICE MANUALS.....\$245

**ICOM IC-560** 10-watt all-mode 6-m transceiver s/n 01194.....\$195

**MIDLAND 13-513** 10-watt 220 mHz FM transceiver, s/n 77000357,  
PLL mod added, with manuals.....\$180

**KENWOOD LOUDSPEAKER SP-930** with manual.....\$105

**ANTENNA:** 2-meter J-pole, new, never used; manufactured by Ameri-  
can Legion Post 599.....\$20

**BOB HEIL HEADSET WITH BOOM MIC.**  
8-pin Kenwood Mic plug.....\$125

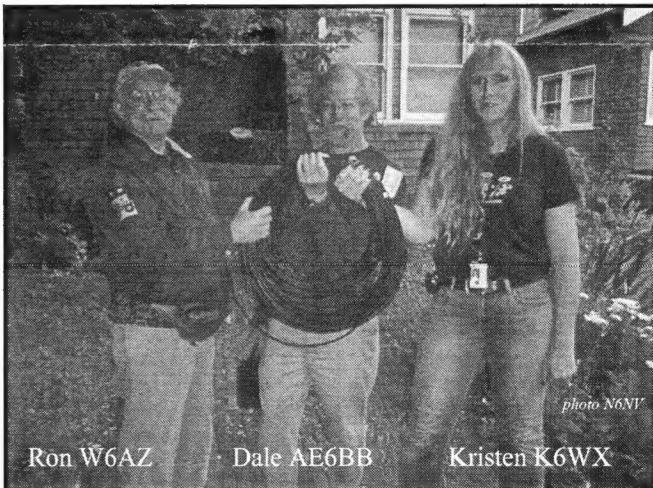
ARRL Bulletin 20 ARLB020  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 25, 2005  
To all radio amateurs:  
SB QST ARL ARLB020

ARLB020 Higher Amateur Radio vanity call sign application fee now in effect. The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide this week, and WTB personnel have confirmed that the new vanity fee is in effect.

In a Report and Order and Order On Reconsideration (R&O) in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7, the FCC raised the vanity application fee for FY 2005 from \$20.80 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted FY 2004 "payment units" for each service to better reflect expected FY 2005 payment liabilities. The fee went up from \$16.30 to \$20.80 a year ago.

A reevaluation in the number of anticipated vanity call sign applications—or "payment units"—accounts for this latest fee hike. The FCC says it anticipates 7600 vanity applications—up only slightly from a year earlier.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html).



Ron W6AZ

Dale AE6BB

Kristen K6WX

## PAARA BADGES

*To order one, contact our Badge Coordinator:*

**Doug Teter, KG6LWE**  
[dteter@wewi.com](mailto:dteter@wewi.com)

## Scout Hams

There is an area boy scout troop that now has 32 licensed members interested in amateur radio. They have a web site <http://www.v27.org/HamRadio.asp>. Check it out.  
Maybe PAARA should be helping.

## FEMA Amateur Callsigns

by Vic Black **AB6SO**

Most Amateur Radio operators have a good idea of how US callsigns are assigned by the FCC. However, you may not be aware that there are hidden blocks of callsigns not normally assigned to amateurs for various reasons. Did you ever wonder what some of them are and how they are assigned?

When we requested a 5 MHz band for amateur use, the FCC had already agreed to the band assignment then a mysterious group called NTIA objected and the original assignment was changed. The NTIA, or National Telecommunications and Information Administration, is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications and information policy. NTIA has several blocks of amateur callsigns reserved with most assigned to the Department of Defense. An example is the KG4xx callsign block for use at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Some of these are used in normal amateur communications, but are assigned to clubs or military bases rather than to individual operators.

Another block of callsigns is assigned by NTIA to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They are of the form WF,NF,KF,AF- # -EMA. For example, WGY912 in Berryville, Virginia uses KF4EMA when operating on amateur bands. If you look up KF4EMA in QRZ.com it will say that the callsign is not in the database. It actually does exist though. If you ever hear any one of these callsigns on the air, be especially careful not to interfere with them and resist your urges to inform them that they are using unassigned callsigns.

They may show up in the new 60-meter band and it's possible that you could even hear them on upper side band in the CW and data-only 10 MHz amateur band during major emergencies.

**ATTENTION: Katrina Emergency Nets Reminder !!!**  
Section 97.101C gives priority to emergency communications at all times.

The primary nets and their frequencies are from the ARRL, please check for any updates.  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/05/100/?nc=1>

**West Gulf ARES Emergency Net:** 7.285 MHz days / 3.873 MHz nights

**Health and Welfare traffic:** 7.290 MHz days/3.935 nights  
**Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN):** 14.265 MHz and > 7.265> MHz (as needed; reports indicate this frequency can vary somewhat, depending upon QRM)>

ARRL says to "give these nets as much elbow room as possible--5 kHz or more on either side of the net frequency". Whether a frequency is listed or not, take extra time to listen and be sure any frequency you use is clear of emergency or relief traffic.

## Hurricane Katrina

As you undoubtedly know, Hurricane Katrina has caused severe damage in many areas of the southeastern United States. Volunteers are currently needed to assist in disaster relief efforts being implemented as a result of this natural disaster.

The Red Cross is seeking healthy adults who can endure this hardship assignment to be deployed for 1-3 weeks in the aftermath of Katrina's strikes. Community members who wish to volunteer for this relief operation should contact:

Vandana Godha, Director of Volunteer Resources

650-688-0445 -or-[vgodha@paarc.org](mailto:vgodha@paarc.org)

mail to: [vgodha@paarc.org](mailto:vgodha@paarc.org)>.

An intensive, two-day training is being offered by the American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, for individuals or groups interested in immediate deployments.

Travel, lodging and most personal expenses will be provided by the American Red Cross. Currently the staging location is in Houston, Texas where the airports are operational.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is provided at NO COST to the victims, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. If you are unable to volunteer your time, you can help the victims of Katrina by making a donation to the Red Cross via the Palo Alto Area Chapter at <http://www.paarc.org/>

Thanks in advance for your help,

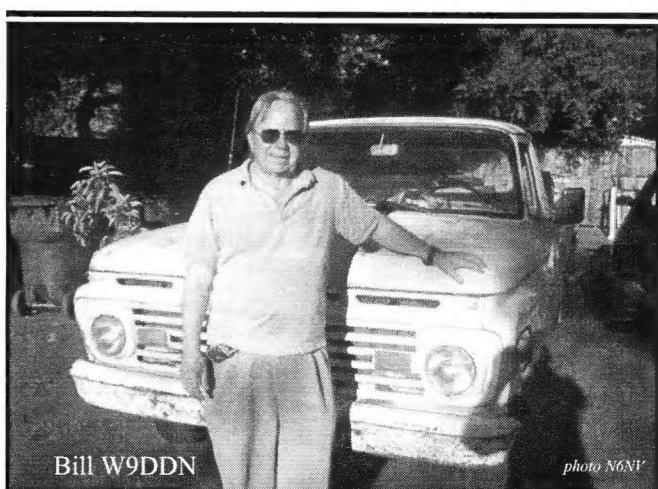
Paul Lufkin, K6PML, Government Liaison

Email: [K6PML@arrl.net](mailto:K6PML@arrl.net) or

765-36 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303

Palo Alto Area American Red Cross

Voice: (650) 494-1316      Pager: (650) 524-8201



Bill W9DDN

photo N6NP

Reminder: There is a one-day ham radio "cram" license class on Sept. 24. Details on:

<http://www.k6mpn.org/training/index.html>

[http://www.almanacnews.com/morgue/2005/2005\\_09\\_14.katrinad.shtml](http://www.almanacnews.com/morgue/2005/2005_09_14.katrinad.shtml)

**PAARA Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Raffle**

PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

Date and Time: Friday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

Location: Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.

Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:

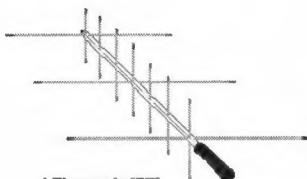
**FIRST PRIZE: YAESU FT-2800M**

2m / 65W / Mobile

**Huge Easy To Read Display**  
**One-touch WIRES Internet Linking Access Capability**  
**Special Memory Bank For NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels**  
**Backlit Microphone Keypad**  
**Smart Search Loads Active Frequencies**



Work a Satellite with an HT



A027 Up-link 145.850 Down-link 436.800  
A014 Up-link 145.875 Down-link 435.070

**SECOND PRIZE:**  
**Arrow 3EL VHF, 7EL UHF Yagi**

**Portable Satellite Operation**  
**Maximum Gain and Efficiency**  
**Separate BNC Connectors**  
**Strong and Lightweight**



**THIRD PRIZE: Grundig FR-200**  
**Emergency Radio AM / FM / SW**

**Built In Power Generator / 60 Turns On The Hand Crank = 1 Hour Playing Time**  
**Internal Battery**  
**Emergency Light**  
**DC / Earphone Jack, and Speaker**

**FOURTH PRIZE: TWO Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios with NiMH Batteries and Charger**

**FIFTH PRIZE: Magnet Mount Dual Band Antenna / SMA Connector**

**SIXTH PRIZE: 500 Cable Ties / 4" / 6" / 8" Lengths**

**SEVENTH PRIZE: 25 Feet Flex Guard 1" Split Seam Tubing / Wiring Organizer**

**EIGHT PRIZE: 04-05 ARRL Repeater Directory**

Since February 2003, 72 Radios, including a YAESU FT-847, an ICOM 706 MK IIIG, and Two Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.

Enjoy our fabulous speakers, free refreshments, chatting with your friends, and the chance to take home an unbelievable prize. See you at Round Table after the meeting!

Contact Kyle, KG6MSK, “One of PAARA’s youngest members” for tickets at the meeting.

Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Rick, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued SUPPORT!

~K6AK Jim

Congratulations: September 9<sup>th</sup> 2005 Raffle Prize Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Don Frevert KG6GLU / Portable DVD Player

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Richard Wallace KG6YEM / Programmable Power Meter

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Dave Cooper KE6PFF / Solar Panel 12V / 350mA / 5W

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Steve Leander KV6O / Power Panel 8 / with 8pk. Connectors & Hook Up Wire

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Gerry Tucker N6NV / TWO Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios with NiMH Batteries and Charger

6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Rick Line KG6TMD / VHF / UHF HT Antenna with SMA Connector

7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Frank De Francesco KE6LSP / Hints & Kinks For the Radio Amateur / Book

8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Peter Sheerin K6WEB / 04/05 ARRL Repeater Directory

9<sup>th</sup> Prize: Bob Golder WA2CFN / SETI Book

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 72 Radios, including a YAESU FT-847, an ICOM 706 MK IIIG, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA is having a remarkable year in 2005! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2005 events with the “friendliest club around.”

~K6AK Jim

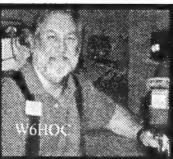
### TRUCKS FOR SALE.

**One 1932 Ford model BB,** 1 and one half ton, dual rear wheel, four cylinder model C engine drivable truck. Requires aesthetic restoration of cab interior and a box or bed for the rear.

**One 1932 Ford model BB,** 1 and one half ton, dual rear wheel, eight cylinder engine, van style, drivable truck. Complete restoration almost finished with new wood, rubber, glass and interior.

Both vehicles have clean California titles and historical license plates and the ownership history is known. Both are located in Redwood City and available for inspection by request. These are the perfect advertising platforms, parade vehicles, mobile ham stations or items for your collection.

Contact: Terry Finn. AA6T. 650-366-9111.



*Howard at HRO says: "HAM accessories and gift certificates are available at HRO. Congratulations to PAARA on a successful year."*

**K6EF. new call for Mark Cohen**

### HAM FEST

at

### ANGELINO'S RESTAURANT

3132 Williams Road, at Winchester Blvd.

2:00 PM

Second Sunday each month  
[www.Angelinosrest.com](http://www.Angelinosrest.com)

## PAARA Radio NET

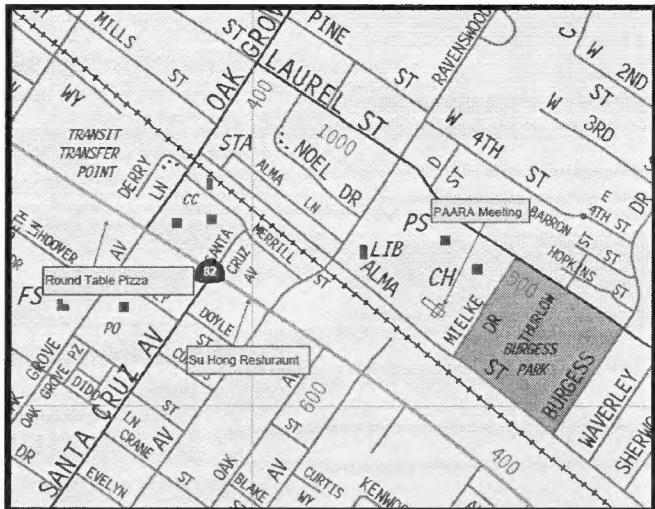
and Swap Session  
 every Monday evening  
 8:30pm local time  
 on the

**145.230 –600 MHz repeater**

*PL tone off*

*control operators:*

Week	Operator
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon.	Pink Foster, KG6ILA
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.	Bill Rausch, AA6PA
5 <sup>th</sup> Mon.	<b>Volunteer!</b>



### Directions to PAARA meeting:

<http://paara.org/meetings/>

#### Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

Membership in PAARA is \$18.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAGraphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

*Join us for pre-meeting eyeball*

**QSO**  
**October 7th**  
**gab & gobble**

*Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.*

**5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant**

**1039 El Camino Real**  
**Menlo Park**

*across from Kepler's Book Store  
 on El Camino Real  
 Walking distance from Caltrain!*



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**TERRY FINN — AA6T**  
 234 Marshall Street, UPSTAIRS #3 Redwood City, CA 94063-1550  
 CA License # 1A38965

## W6AZ



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 Ron@taxhelp.com

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David Rice, W6NUC  
 Owner

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AE6AI



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PAARAGraphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAGraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

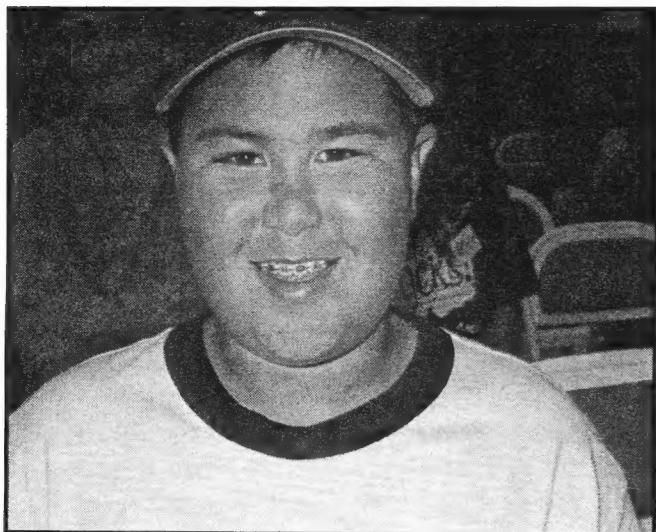
All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Terry Finn, AF6TF

# **PAARAgraphs—October 2005**



**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
PAARAGraphs Newsletter  
P.O. Box 911  
Menlo Park, California 94026**

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



**Matthew Kelley KG6WTE,  
PAARA's Youngest Licensee**

Korsak, Andy KR6DD  
504 Lakemead Way  
Emerald Hills, CA 94062-3919